UCONN WINS
Well-rested Williams on the mark as Huskies women win AAC opener. C1

DOT ROAD PLANS
State transportation officials issue warning for lawmakers. B1

TRUMP ON IRAN
Trump's support of Iran demonstrators risky. A3

100-YEAR COLD ★
Record cold on this New Year's Day. A2

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXII NUMBER 1 | COURANT.COM | MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

HOSPITAL ABANDONMENT

ER Desertion More Frequent

State Cuts Leave Families Of Disabled With Hard Choices

By JOSH KOVNER
jkovner@courant.com

The way the state defines an emergency — the death or incapacitation of a developmentally disabled person's caregiver — has contributed to the plight of the young man with autism abandoned by his parents at Manchester Memorial Hospital five months ago, and to similar cases across the state.

This rising threshold for an emergency is tied to budget cuts and the increasing costs of running the state's remaining institutions. It has gotten to a point, advocates said in interviews this week, that a person with developmental disabilities who essentially has been living at a hospital emergency department, and is periodically disruptive and a burden to the staff, will not trigger an urgent state response.

And the Manchester case, though extreme, is not unique.

"Virtually every Connecticut hospital has recently dealt with or is presently dealing with one or more patients like this," said Carl Schiessl of the Connecticut Hospital Association.

Schiessl, who directs regulatory and advocacy efforts, said hospitals are "often

DESERTION, A4

FIRST NIGHT HARTFORD

PETER CASOLINO | SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

DOWNTOWN HARTFORD and the Capitol Building are lit up by fireworks as the city celebrates a chilly First Night to mark the end of 2017 and the start of a new year.

RINGING IN 2018

Capital City Celebrates New Year's Eve With Events For All

By MATTHEW ORMSETH
mormseth@courant.com

The final day of 2017 was bitterly cold, but across Hartford, in graveyards and museums, in ice rinks and lodges and churches and carousels, locals and out-of-towners alike took to the city's frostbitten downtown streets to see out the old year and ring in the new.

First Night in Hartford was a mixture of the historical, the family-friendly and the odd, strewn across 17 downtown locales, some of them iconic, like the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, some of them more obscure — like the city's Ancient Burial Ground.

In the Main Street burial ground, sandwiched between Center Church and the Gold Building, about a dozen people bundled in coats, scarves

FIRST NIGHT, A4

PETER CASOLINO | SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

SKATING ON First Night, from left, Bernice and Nicolas Santiago with their children Ashly, 12, and Aisha, 10, all came out to celebrate the new year at Bushnell Park.

COLORADO SHOOTING

Police: Officer Dead, 4 Hurt

Gunman Slain After 'Ambush' Of Local Deputies

By DAVID KELLY
Special To Los Angeles Times

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. — Authorities in Colorado say the man who shot and killed a sheriff's deputy and wounded four other law enforcement officers early Sunday morning "knew we were coming" and essentially ambushed the officers.

Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock said at a news conference that the officers were responding to a noise complaint at the Copper Canyon Apartments in Highlands Ranch about 12 miles south of Denver at 5:14 a.m. MST. One of the two men in the apartment let them inside. Spurlock said the other, who was in a bedroom, spoke briefly with the officers before opening fire on them.

SHOOTING, A4

LEGISLATION

Eight New State Laws Take Effect Monday

Fertility, Addiction Treatment Included

By RUSSELL BLAIR
rblair@courant.com

New laws that take effect on New Year's Day will make it easier to resell concert tickets, harder to be an Uber driver, and will allow those that still can't let go of the Hartford Whalers to remind everyone else on Connecticut's roadways of that fact.

Jan. 1 is one of three days of the year when legislation that passes the state House and Senate and is signed by the governor takes effect. Here's a look at some of the new laws.

Whalers license plates

The Whale is back. Well, at least on your license plate. Beginning Jan. 1 the Department of Motor Vehicles is required to begin selling Hartford Whalers commemorative license plates. Of the $60 fee for the plates, $15 goes to the DMV with the remainder

NEW LAWS, A4

New Year's Eve Around The World
From spectacular fireworks in Australia to a huge LED light show at the world's tallest building in Dubai, here's a look at how revelers around the world were ringing in 2018 on Sunday. **World & Nation, Page A5**

Business Goes On
The widow and the twin brother of NASCAR's Ted Christopher, who died in a Sept. 16 plane crash, have teamed up to steer Christopher's Plainville business. **Connecticut, Page B1**

Year Of The Woman
It seems as if 2017 has turned out to be the Unexpected Year of the Woman. **Opinion, Page A7**

Is It The Weekend Yet?
Enjoy the winter wonderland of Hastings Farm in Suffield with a hay ride on Monday, plus a New York fashion soiree, a medieval Epiphany celebration, and a few more ideas to get you through the week. **Living, Page B8**

2017 In Regional Sports
From the debut of the Yard Goats at Dunkin' Donuts Park, to the return of Randy Edsall and the amazing comeback of the Patriots in the Super Bowl, it's been another banner year for sports — and sports figures — in Greater Hartford. **Sports, Page C1**

'Fake News' Made List
A Michigan university released its 43rd annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness. **World & Nation, Page A5**

State Preschools
As child-care costs rise, advocates call for more public preschool options. **World & Nation, Page A8**

CLASSIFIED....A6 | LOTTERY....A2 | OPINION....A7
COMICS....B6-B7 | OBITUARIES....B2, B4 | PUZZLES....B7

Hartford Courant media group

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